GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3561
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
NATIONAL WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Watershed Development Programme is spread across a number of Ministries from the Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment Ministry to the Planning Commission, which has hampered watershed programmes;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposals with the Government for the creation of one single authority for rainfed area development, to bring focus to watershed schemes in rainfed areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Government of India is implementing following programmes with watershed approach;

Ministry of Agriculture Programmes:

(i) National Watershed Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers(RVP & FPR)

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA)

(iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)

(v) Watershed Development Fund (WDF)

Ministry of Rural Development Programmes:

(i) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

(ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(iii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

Planning Commission Programme:

(i) Western Ghats Development Programme

Focus of each programme is different and no systematic study has been done to conclude that this spread of schemes over different departments have hampered watershed programmes. A National Watershed Committee (NWC) has been set up to review and coordinate the watershed programmes. Besides, Hon`ble Prime Minister in his address to the Nation on the Independence Day, 2005 has announced to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority. The matter has been discussed in the Planning Commission, Agriculture Coordination Committee and Committee of Secretaries.